THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

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SYSTEM-MONGERS.

Many writers have, by parallels from history, endeavoured to ascertain the downfall of kingdoms, states, and empires. They cite the downfall of Greece and Rome to prove that the American republic must fall also. All parallels of this kind we look upon as false and delusive theories. They go on this absurd hypothesis, that mankind are not sentient beings, but mere pieces of mechanism. The maxim is undoubtedly true in mechanics, that similar causes will produce similar effects; but how this can be applied to intelligent beings, we are at a loss to imagine. They are not operated upon by the same blind impulses as dull and inanimate matter, and consequently a rule which is undoubtedly true when applied to matter, cannot by any stretch of construction, be applicable to them. Let us apply perceptions and intelligence to a piece of mechanism, and we shall at once be able to discover the sophistry conveyed in this hypothesis. We will suppose that a clock, independent of its mechanical properties, was endued with volition; that it had the power of accelerating or of retarding its revolutions by a mere act of volition, unconnected with its weights. Now would any deductions drawn solely from the principle of gravity, apply to so wonderful a machine? No; unless it can be proved that the free will of the clock was regulated and controled by the weights, which would be a contradiction in terms. Hence we see that if volition, when applied to a piece of mechanism, would prove the falsity of a rule now universally true in mechanics, because no piece of mechanism does possess such principle of volition, it is equally clear, that in bodies possessing the power of volition, this rule cannot operate. History has done much injury to politicians, because they will not consider the pages of the historian to be, what they unquestionably are, mere repositories of facts. The historian is not satisfied with this; he must likewise, from these materials, build up a system of his own. With the page of the historian before him, he sets down to his work, discovers what he conceives to have been the secret principle by which the extinction of kingdoms, states, and empires, was brought about, and lays down this as the basis of all his calculations hereafter. He predicts, for instance, with confidence, the downfall of the American republic. When his reasons are demanded for such an opinion, he will inform us that he has discovered the causes which led to the ruins of Greece and Rome, and as he finds the same cause now prevalent in this country, he confidently predicts the ruin of the American republic also. These sage conclusions are founded on the erroneous application of one of the laws of mechanics to sentient and intelligent beings; namely, that the same causes invariably produce the same effects. This has been one of the most powerful sources of error amongst politicians. A man is prone to imagine that he has read history to no purpose, unless he forms a system for himself from its perusal; and as the question then is with him, whether the whole United States shall be sacrificed to his system, or his system to the United States, he does not hesitate for a moment which sacrifice to make. Under the influence of this system-malady he acts; and, generally speaking, such men are, of all others, the most miserable politicians. They see no danger in any thing but what controverts the sanctity of their own systems, and the greatest imaginable danger in that quarter alone. They are thus, with the best intentions in the world, made mere instruments in the hands of cunning and crafty men, for the accomplishment of their own sinister purposes. They do acts of the most notorious injustice, because all these, as they imagine, go to the preservation of their favourite system—a system that must be preserved in its integrity in all possible events. They thus, while they are honestly labouring, as they conceive, to promote the welfare of their country, are doing all in their power to accomplish its destruction. On such men argument has no effect; because it does not reach the first principle on which, if it is not a contradiction in terms, they have founded the destruction of the Grecian and of the Roman republics. This is the life-spring of all their political actions. We have no sort of hesitation in declaring, that we had rather take a merchant from his counting house—a mechanic from his anvil—a farmer from his spade, and turn them at once into legislators, than to entrust our political rights to the guardianship of one of these inveterate system-mongers. Such men, in the midst of all their confined habits of thinking, have common sense, which may gradually be expanded and enlarged sufficiently for all the purposes of sound legislation. Different from a politician who has just broke loose from his studies—they proceed in their advances in knowledge firmly and surely: their common sense never departs them; but expands over a larger circumference of action; they

are incomparably better judges than these system-mongers can be of practicable good. Whereas, if a scholar is taken piping-hot from his study and metamorphosed into a legislator, he never dreams of practicable good. He thinks of nothing but blessings which may, with singular emphasis, be denominated *theoretical*. Before these strange visions and wild vagaries have been sobered down to the dull realities of life, he has done to his country all the injury in his power; injuries which he is incapable of providing a remedy for afterwards. He finds that his system is, after all, false and delusive, while the injury which he has done to his country is a real and permanent injury. He finds that he has sacrificed a mammoth to propitiate the manes of a fly. We are not disposed to censure Mr. Randolph, although we have never enrolled ourselves amongst that gentleman's admirers. He may affect a contempt for what we shall say; and if he does, we care not. If, however, he is disposed to impute the freedom of these strictures to improper motives, he will find himself opposed by a contempt fully equal to his his own. We know the purity of our own motives, and it is not the frown of mortified vanity that will divert us from our purpose. He began his political career with a heart undoubtedly honest, but full of strong and vindictive prejudices in politics. Acting on these grounds, he made his feelings, rather than his sober judgment, his oracle. On all questions, whether they involved the great points of political diversity or not, he manifested the same unsparing violence, as if he had a direct personal interest in every subject which was brought before the house of representatives. The navy he held in the most utter abhorrence, and they furnished him with many occasions to indulge in a strain of the most puerile invective. He enlisted, however, in his cause the unworthy prejudices of his countrymen; prejudices which we presume they have now renounced, to a man, and which Mr. Randolph himself is now prepared to despise. His early life was enlisted in the ranks of opposition; where he continued until his friends obtained the possession of that power which they were struggling after. Shortly afterwards, he abandoned them; and he is now just as vindictive in persecuting them as he formerly was in his persecutions of the federal party. But what does this political character call himself now! He will not acknowledge himself to be a federalist, because that would cast a censure on the whole course of his early life—he will not acknowledge himself to be a democrat, because that would call in question his political integrity now. What then is to be done, for this man is still a prominent public character! To what class of men does he belong? Pressed by these serious and goading difficulties on both sides, his vanity has constructed a stage on which he has stationed himself in sight of both parties; but which of right belongs to neither. Having taken his part in this lonely and sequestered situation, he cheers himself in his political hermitage with the reflection, that he is the only man in the United States who has preserved the integrity of his principles; that he has been led by them to the life of a monk; that, in fact, both parties have abandoned him. This he has again and again avowed on the floor of the house of representatives. If Mr. Randolph is satisfied with such a luminous explanation of his political consistency, far be it from us to attempt to detract from its merits. We are only amazed at the extreme modesty of the man, who can prove himself to be right by no other course of argument than that which proves all mankind besides himself to be wrong. We have heard of a man who was once confined in the walls of Bedlam, and to a question which was asked him how he came there, he answered—all mankind believe me to be mad, and I believe all mankind to be in the same predicament, and as they form the majority, I am unfortunately confined in this place. Such an apology for such political inconsistency, is no less an outrage on common decency than it is on common sense.

LOCUSTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

I have never seen, at any former period of my life, so large a swarm of locusts as is now in the neighbourhood of Northumberland court house, N. C. A common cow bell cannot be heard at the distance of two hundred yards when they are chaunting. On examination, I find there is a very perceptible difference in the formation of the male and female. The male only is capable of making a noise. I understand they have not made their appearance in what is commonly called the *pine lands*, nor do they occupy a space of more than four or five miles square.

It is said they generally appear periodically, at intervals of about 14 years. The writer would be gratified to learn from whence they came, and whither they go; or in other words, what is their original form, and what form do they assume? They come out of the earth a small bug, and when dryed by the rays of the sun, the shell splits on the back, and out comes a fly; but I am not

informed whether the bug is their original form or not. A SUBSCRIBER.

We received the above communication from a correspondent at Northumberland C. H. but not being acquainted with the natural history of this famous insect ourselves, we extract the following account of them from Rees's Cyclopædia, which may be found under the word *Gryllus*. As many of our readers may not have an opportunity to examine that work, this extract, we hope, in the present dearth of news will not be unacceptable.

"The migratory locust is a native of Tartary, from the eastern parts of which it sometimes emigrates over the adjacent countries in such immense legions, as to occasion the most incredible mischief. These hosts of depredators are oftentimes so numerous as to darken the air at noonday in their flights. Wherever they settle, the most fertile regions are, in a few days, rendered desolate; and the very putrefaction arising from the number of their dead becomes the source of pestilence to man and animals. It is seldom, except in eastern countries, that these calamities are experienced to such a dreadful extent, though they sometimes are, as the visitation of the locust in Europe, about the middle of the eighteenth century, very clearly proves. The ravages committed by locusts in the south of Europe, about the period last mentioned, are described at great length by Roesel, from which the more material part of the curious information on that subject, detailed in the 46th volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society, seems to be selected. This account relates to the myriads of locusts that overran Walachia, Moldavia, Transylvania, Hungary and Poland, in 1747 and 1748, and which, being recorded by an eye witness of unquestionable accuracy, explains the history of that destructive creature in a satisfactory manner: the following is the substance of the observations alluded to.

"The first swarms of the locusts entered Transylvania in August, 1747: these were succeeded by others, which were so surprisingly numerous, that when they reached the fortification called the Red Tower they were full four hours in their passage over that place; and they flew so close, that they made a sort of noise in the air by the beating of their wings against one another. The width of the swarm was some hundreds of fathoms, and its height or density so considerable as to hide the sun, and darken the sky to that degree, when they flew low, that people could not know one another at the distance of twenty paces. Arriving at the river that runs through the vallies of the Red Tower, they could neither find resting place nor food, and being at length tired of their flight, one part of them settled on the unripe corn on the hither side of the Red Tower, such as the millet and Turkish wheat, &c. and the other pitched on a low wood, where, having miserably wasted the produce of the land, they continued their journey, as if a signal had actually been given for a march.

"The guards of the Red Tower attempted to stop their irruption into Transylvania, by firing at them; and, indeed, where the balls and shot swept through the swarm they gave way and divided; but having filled up their ranks in a moment, they proceeded on their journey. In the month of September some troops of them were thrown to the ground by great rains and other inclemency of the weather, and thoroughly soaked with wet, they crept along in quest of holes in the earth, dung, and straw; where, being sheltered from the rains, they laid a vast number of eggs, which stuck together by a viscid juice, and were longer and smaller than what is commonly called an ant's egg, or very like grains of oats. The females, having laid their eggs, die, like the silk-worm. When they entered the fields of Transylvania, they did not seem to intend remaining there, but were thrown to the ground by the force of the wind, and there laid their eggs, a vast number of which being turned up and crushed by the plough in the beginning of the ensuing spring, yielded a yellowish juice. In the spring of 1748, certain little blackish worms were seen lying in the fields, and among the bushes, sticking together and collected in clusters, not unlike the hillocks of moles or ants. As nobody knew what they were, so there was little or no notice taken of them, and in May they were covered by the shooting of the corn sown in winter; but the subsequent June discovered what these worms were; for then, as the corn sown in spring was pretty high, these creatures began to spread over the fields, and became destructive to the vegetables by their numbers. Then, at length, the country people, who had slighted the warning given to them, began to repent of their negligence; for as these insects were now dispersed all over the fields, they could not be extirpated without injuring the corn. At that time they differed very little from our common grasshoppers, having their heads, sides, and back of a dark colour, with a yellow belly, and the rest of a reddish hue. About the middle of June they were generally a finger's length; but their shape and colour continued as before. Towards the end of June they cast off their outward covering, and then it plainly appeared they had wings, but as yet unripe and unexpanded, the body being also tender and of a yellowish green; then, in order to render themselves fit for flying, they gradually unfolded their wings with their hinder feet, and as soon as any of them found themselves able to use their wings, they soared up, and by flying round the others, enticed them to do the same; and thus their numbers increased daily: they took flights in a circular manner, of twenty or thirty yards square, until they were joined by the rest; and after miserably laying waste their native fields, they proceeded elsewhere in large troops. Wherever these bodies of locusts happened to pitch they spared no sort of vegetables; they eat up the young corn, and the very grass: but nothing was more dismal than to behold the lands in which they were hatched; for they so greedily devoured every trace of herbage before they could fly, that they left the ground quite bare.

"The devastations of locusts in various parts of the world, at different periods, are recorded by many writers, some examples of which are very remarkable. Thus in the year 593 of the Christian era, after a great drought, these animals appeared in such vast legions as to cause a famine in many countries. In 677 Syria and Mesopotamia were overrun by them. In 852 immense swarms took their flight from the eastern regions into the west, flying with such a sound that they might have been mistaken for birds; they destroyed all

vegetables, not sparing even the bark of trees and the thatch of houses; and devouring the corn so rapidly as to destroy, on computation, a hundred and forty acres in a day; their daily marches or distances of flight, were computed at twenty miles; and these were regulated by leaders or kings, who flew first, and settled on the spot which was to be visited at the same hour the next day by the whole legion: the marches were always undertaken at sun-rise. These locusts were at length driven by the force of the winds into the Belgic ocean, and being thrown back by the tide and left on the shore, caused a dreadful pestilence by their smell. In 1271 all the corn fields of Milan were destroyed; and in 1339 all those of Lombardy. In 1541 incredible hosts afflicted Poland, Walachia, and all the adjoining territories, darkening the sun with their numbers, and spreading desolation throughout the land."

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

NAVAL COURT-MARTIAL.

A naval court-martial, consisting of five post-captains, was recently held, by order of the Secretary of the Navy, at this port, on board the United States ship Franklin, for the trial of Herman Thorn, Esq. a purser in the navy, upon a complaint by Commodore Stephen Decatur, the commander of the United States late squadron in the Mediterranean, "for violating the 23d article of the act of Congress, entitled, "An act for the better government of the navy of the United States, passed 23d April, 1800;" which article is in the following words, viz:

"If any commander, or other officer, shall receive, or permit to be received on board his vessel, any goods or merchandize, other than for the sole use of his vessel, except gold, silver, or jewels, and except the goods or merchandize of vessels which may be in distress or ship-wrecked, or in imminent danger of being ship-wrecked, in order to preserve them for their owner, without orders from the President of the United States, or the Navy Department, he shall, on conviction thereof, be cashiered, and be incapacitated forever afterwards, for any place or office in the Navy."

Upon which the court pronounced the said purser Thorn "not guilty of selling, and guilty of attempting to sell, and of authorising to be sold," and "sentenced the accused to be reprimanded by the Secretary of the Navy."

The sentence of the court, after mature consideration, having been regularly approved, the following letter of reprimand was addressed to the said Herman Thorn:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, MAY 9, 1816.

Herman Thorn, Esq.
Purser U. S. Navy, New-York.

SIR,

In the course of my official functions, unpleasant duties inevitably occur. Among these, is the task of reprimanding officers of the United States Navy for misconduct, and carrying into execution the decisions of courts martial, affecting the character of officers, who, by their grade and responsible stations, ought to be peculiarly exempt from charges of violating the established rules and regulations of the naval service, enacted by the high authority of our national legislature.

The court lately convened for your trial was of the most honorable character, composed of the highest grade of officers in the navy; their impartiality, candor and deliberate decision, have sanctioned the correctness of the charges against you, so far as the intention of violating the law; and for this offence, highly derogatory in its nature to the reputation of our navy, they have pronounced the mild sentence of an official reprimand from the Secretary of the Navy, as the organ of the President of the United States.

It is my incumbent duty to censure your conduct, in the transaction alluded to, and to warn you against a recurrence to any similar attempt, by which you will forfeit the commission you hold, and be at the same time, publicly degraded. You will now consider yourself subject to the orders of this department for duty; and, I trust, in the future exercise of your prudence and discretion, you may avoid reproach, and merit the approbation of your government.

B. W. CROWINSHIELD.

To the Editor of the New-York Evening Post.

SIR,

You are requested to correct an error in the article inserted in your paper from the National Intelligencer, of June 5. The trial of Mr. Thorn took place, not on the complaint of Com. Decatur, but at his own request, and after repeated solicitations. It occurred too during the absence of Captain Gordon, his commander, in the Mediterranean, and most of those whose evidence could have exculpated him, while all the testimony that could be brought to bear against his character was admitted: The weight that ought to be attached to the reprimand of the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy, (independently of the respect due his individual worth) will be determined by its conformity to a decision in which Mr. Thorn is found specifically guiltless of any conduct unbecoming an officer, while he is simply found to have attempted a sale, which was proved, on the trial, to have been done without any improper design, and which he never denied.

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office,
May 17, 1816.

GENERAL ORDER.

VACANCIES IN THE ARMY, AS FAR AS THEY ARE KNOWN AT THIS OFFICE.

Light artillery.—Captains Manigault, Stribling, Peyton; 1st Lieutenants, Lamar, Kinloch.

Corps of artillery.—Captains Boyle, Villard, Blake; 1st Lieutenants Smyth, Dearing, Edwards; 2d Lieutenants Niel, Reynolds, Cooper, Kirby, Gordon, Britt, Shade; 3d Lieutenant Pendleton.

First regiment of infantry.—Captain Read; 1st Lieutenant Thibault; 2d Lieutenants Watts, Davis; Surgeon Scull.

Second regiment of infantry.—Captain Van Beuren; 1st Lieutenant Nourse.

Third regiment of infantry.—Major Gardner; Captains Stockton and M'Donald.

Fourth regiment of infantry.—Captains Barnard, Sangster, Madison; 1st Lieutenant Belton; 2d Lieutenants Lissenhoff and Wright.

Fifth regiment of infantry.—2d Lieutenants Keeler, Craig, Blake.

Sixth regiment of infantry.—Major Wool; and 1st Lieutenant Tappan.

Seventh regiment of infantry.—2d Lieutenant Bridges.

Eighth regiment of infantry.—Captain Quackenbos; 1st Lieutenants Ligon, Brady; 2d Lieutenant Bryan.

Rifle regiment.—Surgeons Mate Henning.

Ordnance department.—1st Lieutenants Magee, Wade, Hawkins; 2d Lieutenant Elismore; 3d Lieutenant Willard.

Engineers.—2d Lieutenant Long.

Staff.—Ass. Adj. Gen. Romayne; Ass. Ins. Gen. Lee; Hos. S. M. Rose, Cambridge, Foot.

Transfers.

Captain Brooks, of the corps of artillery, is transferred to the light artillery.

First lieutenant N. Clark, of the corps of artillery, is transferred to the light artillery.

First lieutenant H. Saunders, of the first infantry, is transferred to the light artillery.

Captain Stockton, of the sixth infantry, is transferred to the corps of artillery.

First lieutenant Ross, of light artillery, is transferred to the first infantry.

Second lieutenant S. Keeler, jun. of the third, is transferred to the sixth infantry.

First lieutenant King, of the corps of artillery, is transferred to the eighth infantry.

Second lieutenant Æneas M'Kay, of the ordnance, is transferred to the corps of artillery, to rank March 12, 1813.

First lieutenant Whistler, of the first, is transferred to the eighth infantry.

First lieutenant Clark, of the fifth, is tranferred to the sixth infantry.

First lieutenant M'Kenzie, of the fourth, is transferred to the corps of artillery.

First lieutenant Frazer, of the eighth, is transferred to the corps of artillery.

Second lieutenant Hindman, of the first, is transferred to the eighth infantry.

Second lieutenant Cobbs, of the eighth, is transferred to the first infantry.

Second lieutenant Hyde, of the first, is transferred to the eighth infantry.

Second lieutenant Rogers, of the eighth, is transferred to the first infantry.

First lieutenant Mountjoy, of the third, is transferred to the eighth infantry.

First lieutenant Culbertson, of the eighth, is transferred to the third infantry.

The president of the United States has directed the following selection of officers to fill vacancies, and to complete, as far as practicable, the organization of the army of the peace establishment.

For the General Staff.

Maj. J. N. Barker, assist. adjt. gen. 8th April, 1814; Maj. G. H. Manigault, assist. inspect. gen. 9th Sept. 1814.

Post Surgeons.—S. Walsh, 9th August, 1813; German Senter, 9th July, 1814.

H. S. Mate.—B. Delevan, 15th April, 1814.

For the Ordnance Department.

First Lieutenants.—Jos. S. Nelson, 30th April, 1813, capt. brevet, 30th April, 1813; William S. Radcliff, 3d August, 1813, capt. brevet, 3d August, 1813; William Anderson, 1st Oct. 1814.

Second Lieutenants.—John W. Thompson, 6th July, 1812, 1st lieut. brevet, 26th June, 1813; T. P Mahon, 19th May, 1813, 1st lieut. brevet, 1st Jan. 1814.

Third Lieutenant.—Charles Ward, 17th May, 1816.

For the Regiment of Light Artillery.

Captains.—Luther Leonard, 6th July, 1812; J. L. Eastman, 31st July, 1813.

First Lieutenant.—John A. Shaw, 21st Feb. 1814.

For the Corps of Artillery.

Captains.—B. D. Herriot, 31st Dec. 1813; Matt. M. Payne, 2d March, 1814; Ethan A. Allen, 25th July, 1814.

First Lieutenants.—Samuel Armstrong, 9th of March, 1814; Robert M'Clelland, 1st May, 1814; W. L. Robeson, 2d May, 1814.

Second Lieutenants.—George D. Snyder, 1st Sept. 1812; 1st lieut. brevet, 25th June, 1814; William Coffie, 13th March, 1813; 1st lieut. brevet, 21st Sept. 1814; Thomas W. Denton, 13th May, 1813; 1st lieut. brevet, 30th June, 1814; Joseph Taylor, 1st August, 1813; 1st lieut. brevet, 15th July, 1814.

Second Lieutenants.—John Mitchell, 16th Nov. 1813; Erastus Roberts, 2d June, 1814; Hugh K. Meade, 16th Sept. 1814; H. M. Simons, 16th Sept. 1814.

Third Lieutenants.—Jesse M'Ilvaine, 15th June, 1814; P. Dearing, 12th Dec. 1814.

For the first Regiment of Infantry.

Captain.—Joseph J. Miles, 11th March, 1814.

First Lieutenants.—Wm. C. Beard, 27th Sept. 1812; capt. brevet, 20th August, 1814; William Sumpter, 27th May, 1813.

Second Lieutenants.—James Smith, 19th Nov. 1812; 1st lieut. brevet, 15th April, 1814; W. K. Pulling, 20th June, 1814.

Surgeon.—B. F. Harney, 17th Aug. 1814.

For the second Regiment of Infantry.

Captain.—George G. Steele, 6th July, 1812, Major brevet, 4th Sept. 1814.

First Lieutenant.—James Bailey, 3d Jan. 1812, capt. brevet, 27th March, 1814.

For the third Regiment of Infantry.

Major.—Z. Taylor, 15th May, 1814, brevet, 5th Sept. 1812.

Captains.—Benjamin Desha, 17th March, 1814; George Gray, 17th Sept. 1814.

Second Lieutenant.—Andrew Lewis, 2d May, 1814.

For the fourth Regiment of Infantry.

Captains.—J. N. M'Intosh, 1st May, 1811; C. Crawford, 6th July, 1812; George W. Melvin, 24th Aug. 1812.

First Lieutenants.—Thomas Kearney, 6th July, 1812, capt. brevet, 13th May, 1813; Lewis Yancey, 24th March, 1814.

Second Lieutenants.—Geo. B. M'Claskey, 1st May, 1814; John L. Elbert, 18th July, 1814.

For the fifth Regiment of Infantry.

First Lieutenants.—Wm. B. Adams, 6th July, 1812, capt. brevet, 13th May, 1813.

Second Lieutenants.—Robert A. M'Cabe, 31st Dec. 1812, 1st lieut. brevet, 1st May, 1814; O. Martin, 8th Feb. 1814, 1st lieut. brevet, 25th Sept. 1814; R. H. Hammon, 1st Oct. 1814.

For the sixth Regiment of Infantry.

Major.—James V. Ball, 16th Sept. 1812, lieut. col. brevet, 18th Dec. 1812.

Captain.—Thomas Hamilton, 21st Feb. 1814.

For the seventh Regiment of Infantry.

Second Lieutenant.—Jacob Tipton, 1st Jan. 1814; 1st lieut. brevet, 3d Nov. 1814.

For the eighth Regiment of Infantry.

Captain.—James M'Keon, 6th July, 1812.

First Lieutenant.—Robert Houston, 29th March, 1813.

Second Lieutenant.—George Kennerly, 17th May, 1814, 1st. lieut. brevet, 17th May, 1814.

For the Rifle Regiment.

S. Mate.—William Pearson, 4th August, 1814.

Promotions in the Corps of Engineers.

Capt. Charles Gratiot, to be major, rank 9th Feb. 1815.

1st lieutenant E. D. Russey, to be captain, rank 9th Feb. 1815.

2d lieutenant George Trescott, to be 1st lieut. rank 9th Feb. 1815.

The officers above selected will forthwith repair to the head quarters of their several regiments, viz:

The light artillery, Newport, R. I.
1st infantry, Pasa, Christianna, Louisiana.
2d infantry, Sackett's Harbour, N. Y.
3d infantry, Detroit, Michigan.
4th infantry, Fort Hawkins, Georgia.
5th infantry, Detroit, Michigan.
6th infantry, Plattsburg, N. Y.
7th infantry, Fort Hawkins, Georgia.
8th infantry, St. Louis, Missouri Territory.
Rifle regiment, St. Louis, Missouri Territory.

Officers of the staff, engineers, ordnance, and of the corps of artillery, will be disposed of in separate orders. Commanding officers will report the names of all who do not forthwith repair to their stations.—The army is too small to tolerate idlers, and they will be dismissed the service.

By order of the Secretary of War.

D. PARKER,
Adj. and Insp. Gen.

STEAM FRIGATES.

Report of Henry Rutgers, Samuel L. Mitchell, and Thomas Morris, the commissioners superintending the construction of a steam vessel of war, (at New-York) to the Secretary of the Navy.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 28, 1815.

SIR,—The war which was terminated by the treaty of Ghent afforded, during its short continuance, a glorious display of the valour of the U. States by land and by sea—it made them better known to foreign nations, and, what is of much greater importance, it contributed to make them better acquainted with themselves—it excited new enterprises—it induced latent talents—it stimulated to exertions unknown to our people before.

A long extent of coast was exposed to an enemy, powerful above every other on the ocean. His commanders threatened to lay waste our country with fire and sword, and actually, in various instances, carried their menaces into execution. It became necessary, for our defence, to resist, by every practicable method, such a formidable foe.

It was conceived, by a most ingenious and enterprising citizen, that the power of steam could be employed to propel a floating battery, carrying heavy guns, to the destruction of any hostile force that should hover on the shores, or enter the ports of our Atlantic frontier. The perfect and admirable success of his project for moving boats containing travellers and baggage by the same elastic agent, opened the way to its employment for carrying warriors and apparatus for fighting.

The plan was submitted to the consideration of the executive of an enlightened government. Congress, influenced by the most liberal and patriotic spirit, appropriated money for the experiment, and the navy department, then conducted by hon. William Jones, appointed commissioners to superintend the construction of a convenient vessel under the direction of Robert Fulton, Esq. the inventor, as engineer, and Messrs. Adam and Noah Brown as naval constructors. The enterprise, from its commencement, and during a considerable part of its preparatory operations, was aided by the zealous co-operation of Major General Dearborn, then holding his head-quarters at the city of New-York, as the officer commanding the third military district. The loss of his valuable counsel in conducting a work which he had maturely considered, and which he strongly recommended, was the consequence of his removal to another section of the Union, where his professional talents were specially required.

The keels of this steam frigate were laid on the 20th day of June, 1814. The strictest blockade the enemy could enforce interrupted the coasting trade, and greatly enhanced the price of timber. The vigilance with which he guarded our coast against intercourse with foreign nations rendered difficult the importation of copper and iron. The same impediment attended the supplies of coal heretofore brought to New-York from Richmond and Liverpool. Lead, in like manner, was procured under additional disadvantages. These attempts of the enemy to frustrate the design were vain and impotent. All the obstacles were surmounted. Scarcity of the necessary woods and metals was overcome by strenuous exertions; and all the blockading squadron could achieve was not a disappointment in the undertaking, but merely an increase of the expense.

So, in respect to tradesmen and labourers, there was an extraordinary difficulty. Shipwrights had repaired to the lakes for repelling the enemy, in such numbers, that, comparatively speaking, few were left on the sea-board. A large portion of the men who had been engaged in daily work had enlisted as soldiers, and had marched under the banners of the nation to the defence of its rights—yet, amidst the scarcity of hands, a sufficient number were procured for the purpose which the commissioners had in charge. An increase of wages was the chief impediment, and this they were enabled practically to overcome.

By the exemplary combination of diligence and skill, on the part of the engineer, and the constructors, the business was so accelerated that the vessel was launched on the 29th day of October, amidst the plaudits of an unusual number of citizens.

Measures were immediately taken to complete her equipment; the boiler, the engine, and the machinery were put on board with all possible ex-

pedition. Their weight and size far surpassed any thing that had been witnessed before among us.

The stores of artillery in New-York not furnishing the number and kind of cannon which she was destined to carry, it became necessary to transport guns from Philadelphia. A prize, taken from the enemy, put some fit and excellent pieces at the disposition of the Navy Department. To avoid the danger of capture by the enemy's cruizers, these were carted over the miry roads of N. Jersey. Twenty heavy cannon were thus conveyed by the strength of horses. Carriages of the most approved model were constructed, and every thing done to bring her into prompt action, as an efficient instrument of war.

About this time, an officer pre-eminent for bravery and discipline, was commissioned by the government to her command. Prior to this event, it had been intended by the commissioners to finish her conformably to the plan originally submitted to the executive. She was a structure resting upon two boats, and keels separated from end to end by a canal 15 feet wide, and 156 long. One boat contained the cauldrons of copper to prepare the steam. The vast cylinder of iron, with its pisto, lever and wheels, occupied a part of its fellow; the great water-wheel revolved in the space between them; the main or gun deck supported her armament, and was protected by a bulwark of 4 feet 10 inches thick, of solid timber. This was pierced by 30 port holes, to enable as many 32 pounders to fire red hot balls; her upper or spar deck was plain, and she was to be propelled by her enginery alone.

It was the opinion of Captain Porter and Mr. Fulton, that the upper deck ought to be surrounded with a bulwark and stanchions—that two stout masts should be erected to support latteen sails—that there should be bowsprits for jibs, and that she should be rigged in a corresponding style.—Under authorities so great, and with the expectation of being able to raise the blockade of New London, by destroying, taking or routing the enemy's ships, all these additions were adopted and incorporated with the vessel.

It must here be observed, that during the exhausted state of the treasury, and the temporary depression of public credit, the commissioners were exceedingly embarrassed—their payments were made in treasury notes, which they were positively instructed to negociate at par. On several occasions even these were so long withheld, that the persons who had advanced materials and labour, were importunate for payment, or silently discontented. To a certain extent, the commissioners pledged their private credit. Notwithstanding all this, the men at one time actually broke off. The work was retarded, and her completion unavoidably deferred, to the great disappointment of the commissioners, until winter rendered it impossible for her to act.

Under all this pressure, they nevertheless persevered in the important object confided to them. But their exertions were further retarded by the premature and unexpected death of the engineer. The world was deprived of his invaluable labors before he had completed this favorite undertaking. We will not inquire wherefore, in the dispensations of Divine Providence, he was not permitted to realize his grand conception. *His discoveries, however, survive for the benefit of mankind,* and will extend to unborn generations.

At length all matters were ready for a trial of the machinery to urge such a bulky vessel through the water. This essay was on the 1st day of June, 1815. She proved herself capable of opposing the wind, and of stemming the tide, of crossing currents, and of being steered among vessels riding at anchor, though the weather was boisterous and the water rough. Her performance demonstrated, that the project was successful—no doubt remained that a floating battery, composed of heavy artillery, could be moved by steam. The commissioners returned from the exercise of the day, satisfied that the vessel would answer the intended purpose, and consoled themselves that their care had been bestowed upon a worthy object.

But it was discovered, that various alterations were necessary. Guided by the light of experience, they caused some errors to be corrected, and some defects to be supplied. She was prepared for a second voyage with all practicable speed.

On the 4th day of July she was again put in action. She performed a trip to the ocean, eastward of Sandy Hook, and back again, a distance of 53 miles, in eight hours and twenty minutes. A part of this time she had the tide against her, and had no assistance whatever from sails. Of the gentlemen who formed the company invited to witness the experiment, not one entertained a doubt of her fitness for the intended purpose.

Additional expedients were, notwithstanding, necessary to be sought for quickening and directing her motion. These were devised and executed with all possible care.

Suitable arrangements having been made, a third trial of her powers was attempted on the 11th day of September with the weight of 26 of her long ponderous guns, and a considerable quantity of her ammunition and stores on board; her draft of water was short of 11 feet. She changed her course by inverting the motion of the wheels without the necessity of putting about. She fired salutes as she passed the forts, and she overcome the wind and tide in her progress down the bay. She performed beautiful manœuvres around the United States frigate Java, then at anchor near the light house. She moved with remarkable celerity, and she was perfectly obedient to her double helm. It was observed that the explosions of powder produced very little concussion.

The machinery was not affected by it in the smallest degree. Her progress, during the firing, was steady and uninterrupted. On the most accurate calculations, derived from heaving the log, her average velocity was 5½ miles per hour. Notwithstanding the resistance of currents, she was found to make headway at the rate of 2 miles an hour against the ebb of the East river, running 3½ knots. The day's exercise was satisfactory to the respectable company who attended, beyond their utmost expectations. It was universally agreed, that we now possessed a new auxiliary against every maritime invader. The city of New York, exposed as it is, was considered as heaving the means of rendering itself invulnerable.—The Delaware, the Chesapeake, Long Island Sound, and every other bay and harbour in the nation may be protected by the same tremendous power.

Among the inconveniences observable during the experiment, was the heat endured by the men who attended the fires. To enable a correct judgment to be formed on this point, one of the Commissioners (Dr. Mitchill) descended and examined, by a ther-

mometer, the temperature of the hold, between the two boilers. The quicksilver, exposed to the radient heat of the burning fuel, rose to 116 degrees of Farenheit's scale. Though exposed thus to its intensity, he experienced no indisposition afterwards. The analogy of potteries, forges, glass houses, kitchens, and other places, where laborers are habitually exposed to high heats, is familiar to persons of business and of reflection. In all such occupations the men, by proper relays, perform their services perfectly well.

The government, however, well understand that the hold of the present vessel could be rendered cooler by other apertures for the admission of air, and that on building another steam frigate, the comfort of the firemen might be provided for, as in the ordinary steam boats.

The commissioners congratulate the government and the nation on the event of this noble project. Honourable alike to its author and its patrons, it constitutes an era in warfare and the arts. The arrival of peace, indeed, has disappointed the expectations of conducting her to battle. That last and conclusive act of showing her superiority in combat, it has not been in the power of the commissioners to make.

If a continuance of tranquility should be our lot, and this steam vessel of war be not required for the public defence, the nation may rejoice that the fact we have ascertained is of incalculably greater value than the expenditure—and that if the present structure should perish, we have the information, never to perish, how, on a future emergency, others may be built. The requisile variations will be dictated by circumstances.

Owing to the cessation of hostilities, it has been deemed inexpedient to finsh and equip her as for immediate and active employ. In a few weeks, every thing that is incomplete could receive the proper adjustment.

After so much has been done, and with such encouraging results, it becomes the commissioners to recommend that the steam frigate be officered and manned for discipline and practice. A discreet commander, with a selected crew, could acquire experience in the mode of navigating this peculiar vessel. The supplies of fuel, the tending of the fire, the replenishing of the expended water, the management of the mechanism, the heating of shot, the exercise of the guns, and various other matters, can only become familiar by use. It is highly important that a portion of seamen and marines should be versed in the order and economy of the steam frigate.—They will augment, diffuse, perpetuate knowledge. When, in process of time another war shall call for more structures of this kind, men, regularly trained to her tactics, may be despatched to the several stations where they may be wanted. If, on any such disposition, the government should desire a good and faithful agent, the commissioners recommend Captain Obed Smith to notice, as a person who has ably performed the duties of inspector from the beginning to the end of the concern.

Annexed to the report, you will find, sir, several statements explanatory of the subject. A separate report of our colleague, the honorable Oliver Wolcott, whose removal from New York precluded him from attending to the latter part of the business, with his accustomed zeal and fidelity, is herewith presented.

It is hoped these communications will evince the pains taken by the commissioners to execute the honorable and responsible trust reposed in them by the government.

SAML. L. MITCHILL,
THOMAS MORRIS,
HENRY RUTGERS.

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The joint committee appointed to examine the votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor made their report on the 31st of May, which, being amended, was accepted; by which it appears that the whole number of votes for Governor, returned agreeably to the provisions of the constitution, were ninety-seven thousand and eighty-four: of which there were,

For the hon. JOHN BROOKS,	49,578
For the hon. SAMUEL DEXTER,	47,384
Scattering,	122
	97,084

Majority for Brooks, 2,194.

The whole number of votes for Lieutenant Governor, returned agreeably to the provisions of the constitution, was ninety-five thousand nine hundred and ninety-one: of which his honour WILLIAM PHILLIPS had 49,399, and is chosen.

Owing to some informality in the return of votes from several towns, 579 votes for Governor were rejected, of which 327 were for Brooks, and 252 for Dexter. The votes in the several unincorporated plantations which were rejected were 576; of which Brooks had 113, and Dexter 463. Total number of votes rejected, 1,155.

The strength of parties in the senate is 22 federalists to 18 democrats. We do not know precisely what number of members there are in the house of representatives, but believe they amount to about 600. The vote for Speaker will show near enough the relative strength of parties in that body. A ballot being taken for Speaker, on counting the votes, the committee reported the whole number of votes to be 497, of which the federal candidate, Timothy Bigelow, Esq. had 313, and the democratic candidate, Benjamin Green, Esq. 182. The votes of the candidates were scattered.

Wednesday, June 5.—The joint committee appointed to wait on his excellency the governor, having informed him the two houses were ready to receive communications from him, reported that the governor would meet them this day at 12 o'clock. Accordingly, the two houses being assembled in convention, his excellency, preceded by the sheriff of *Suffolk*, and accompanied by his honour the Lieutenant Governor, the honourable Council, and the Secretary of State, came in and delivered the following

SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

AS we have assumed the several stations which the suffrages of our fellow citizens have destined us to sustain, for the present year, I avail myself of this customary interview to congratulate you on the return of this interesting season, and that our country is enjoying a state of peace and domestic tranquility.

The institution of civil government is essential to human happiness—without government existence would cease to be a blessing. But as we can

discern no ground in nature for the assumption of a right in one individual to control the actions of another, we conclude that all men are originally equal; and therefore that legitimate government must be derived from the will of the people. However little the existing governments of the world generally, may correspond with these positions, we have the satisfaction to reflect that Massachusetts, and her sister states, separately and conjointly, have realized, and are now enjoying the right of self-government.

That a numerous population should assemble and legislate upon the multifarious concerns incident to the social state, is obviously impracticable. Reflection and experience however, suggested a convention, and a representative authority was the result of compromise. Every conceivable compact is preferable to anarchy. But if men duly estimate their own interests, in commuting their natural rights, each individual for the portion of liberty he surrenders, must receive in benefits from society far more than an equivalent.

The people of this state have been favored by an indulgent providence, with an opportunity spontaneously of framing for themselves, a constitution of government upon the broad basis of equal rights. And we may be permitted to exult in the reflection, that the great questions involved in forming a system of rules that must last indefinitely for ages and influence the conditions of millions, were discussed with a degree of intelligence, and a spirit of candor and mutual concession, which mark the period as an age of wisdom and virtue. In that interesting discussion, facts and principles were investigated; the most distinguished forms of civil polity, of which ancient and modern times furnished examples, were analyzed, and the effects of each upon the character of man, and upon social happiness, were explored and elucidated, as might have been expected, among men thus informed; men whose ancestors had suffered under the lash of tyranny, and who were themselves menaced with similar evils; power was imparted to public agents with caution, and in every practicable instance limited with precision. Such concessions, however, were made in favor of delegated authority as promised to ensure tranquility and a due execution of the laws. It is obviously one of the leading objects of our constitution efficaciously to counteract the tendency of office to accumulate power, and so guard against an abuse of delegated trust.

Frequent elections are deemed necessary for preserving the original principles of the government in their purity; and it is no less requisite to that end, that rulers should thoroughly understand and duly appreciate their importance. Principles are immutable—and our system is so framed as to leave as little as possible for construction. A popular government, destitute of a system of rules and principles, expressly distributing and modifying the delegated authority, and prescribing, as well to legislators as to magistrates, the conditions upon which it is to be exercised, must be fluctuating and transitory. The ancient republics afford a striking illustration of this remark A division of the powers of sovereignty into several departments, the idea of vesting the legislative power in two deliberate assemblies, each having a negative upon the other; of separating the executive from the legislative, with a perfect or qualified negative upon the latter; and of establishing a judiciary independent of both, were desiderata in the ancient republics, which time and experience have since disclosed. And it is an happiness, gentlemen, to have our lot cast under a system of government constructed upon these principles. This system, being the ordinance of the people, and enacted by them in the exercise of their natural and underived right of self-controul, justly and imperatively claims to be the supreme law of the state. The constitution has been in operation nearly thirty-seven years—it commenced in the midst of the war of the revolution, under circumstances peculiarly trying to its infant strength, and has successfully resisted the shocks to which it has since, from a variety of causes, been exposed.

To estimate the blessings derived to this people from our constitution, would be difficult—we can scarcely point to any source of enjoyment, that is not deduced from, or enriched, by its benign influence.

I only notice further, among the civil provisions of the constitution for the preservation of liberty, property and characters, trials by jury, and the independence of the judges of the supreme judicial court. These provisions were ordained by the people, and they operate for, and are essential to their safety. What otherwise could protect the weak from the powerful, the poor from the opulent, the simple and uninformed from the crafty and intelligent ? This branch of the social compact constitutes one of its most precious attributes. An independent judiciary not only directly guaranties an impartial interpretation and administration of the laws, but has a most auspicious though remote influence upon science and literature, upon character and the embellishments of taste, and more especially upon the science of jurisprudence. The desire of wealth, the love of fame, the hope of distinction, and every motive that can operate upon an ingenious mind, and give elasticity and force to the human faculties, conspire to ensure to the people a succession of learned jurists.

It is foreign to my intention as it would be to the occasion, to attempt an analysis of the constitution. But such provisions of that instrument as are vitally important to the public happiness cannot be too frequently brought to view and impressed upon the public mind.

A knowledge of the value of first principles ought to be cultivated.—Avarice and ambition wage eternal war with equal rights and public liberty. This was the doctrine of our fathers, founded in the nature of man; it is the doctrine of the constitution, illustrated by the unequivocal testimony of experience.

Virtue is the great conservative of republics; and coincident with the other profound views developed in the constitution, and as auxiliary to their attainment, that instrument assigns an elevated rank to moral and religious principles. The happiness of the people, the good order and preservation of civil government are declared essentially to depend on piety, religion and morality; and wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, are considered as necessary for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people. To give the fullest effect to those principles, the constitution makes it the duty of legislators and magistrates in all future periods of the commonwealth to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; to encourage private societies and public institutions, rewards and immunities, for the promotion of agriculture, arts, scien-

ces, commerce, trades and manufactures, to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings, sincerity, good humor, and all social affections and generous sentiments among the people.

To what extent the Legislature has from time to time fulfilled these benevolent injunctions, your journals and statute books can honorably attest. The establishment of numerous public institutions to countenance the principles of piety, of charity and benevolence; for the encouragement of literature and the sciences, of agriculture and the mechanic arts, evinces a copious transfusion of the same enlightened spirit into our Legislatures that originated and perfected the constitution. And the various aids in money, in lands, and in valuable immunities, which have been granted from time to time, to the University at Cambridge, the colleges at Williamstown and Brunswick, and the numerous Academies and other literary and scientific institutions, bear honorable testimony to the fidelity with which the constitution has been administered.

In framing our constitution, provision was wisely made for transferring a larger portion of sovereignty to the United States, than had been conferred by the confederation, and the ruinous effects flowing from the impotence of merely a federative compact, soon imperiously exacted a fulfilment of that provision. In the mean time, commerce and credit, both public and private, were nearly extinct; agriculture, trades and manufactures languished; and the whole country, that had recently and illustriously effected their independence after a long and distressing war, was overwhelmed with gloomy apprehensions of anarchy and ruin. At length, a new frame of government was announced, and after long and rigorous discussion in the several states, was happily adopted.

The constitution of the United States is without precedent and without parallel. In its composition and form it partakes of the federative character; but from the extent of its fiscal, executive, and other powers, possesses the essential prerogatives of an integral government. The confederation was a government of courtesy. The national interests demanded one of efficiency and coercion. Regulating commerce, maintaining customary intercourse with other nations, forming treaties, exercising the rights of war and peace, and providing for the national defence, were large concessions made to the government of the United States; but they were then, and are still, believed to be necessary to maintain the stability of government, to command the confidence of our own citizens and the respect of other nations, as well as to preserve the union of the States. The just mean between a too-limited and an indefinite grant of power, was assiduously sought, and the result cheerfully submitted to the test of experiment.

In whatever degree the American systems of government may have been derived in their exterior forms from pre-existing models, their origin is essentially dissimilar. The British constitution, for example, was the product of feudal times, and the people of England were supposed to receive privileges from the hands of the king, as though power was primitively and inheritently an attribute of royalty. Our constitution originated from a different source, and is strictly a compromise among equals; a compromise among individuals, who, arrogating no exclusive pre-eminent rights, acknowledge no superiors. And those compacts being completed, their administration was entrusted to agents to exercise that degree of power only, which their constituents had seen fit to impart. The national compact, like the constitutions of the individual States, is an emanation from the same pure and legitimate source; and the spirit of freedom that pervades and animates the State constitutions, is carried into the national pact; and all powers not expressly given, are declared to be retained by the people or the States. This distinct reservation of rights, besides being a condition without the introduction of which the constitution would never have been adopted, forms a check upon the powers vested in the general government. The sovereignty of the States, though reduced from its original amplitude, has been viewed by the most illustrious statesmen of our country, as forming a most safe and effectual counterpoise to that mass of power inherent in the United States constitution, and which is indispensably necessary for the general welfare.

From the experience we have had of the operations of the national government, we may infer its efficiency, and that its continuance may be protracted for ages. The machinery, it is true, is complicated; but the several parts, we trust, are so well proportioned and adapted to each other as to render the mighty movements of the whole equable, salutary, and lasting. We presume the government will be administered in the true spirit of it, and that a great and united nation may be rendered happy under its auspicious influence. Whatever apprehensions may have been at any former period entertained of the operations of the national government, the people of this commonwealth have but one sentiment as to its continuance. Massachusetts will be among the last to impair the union of the States, as she would be the last silently to abandon her own just rights.

Regulating commerce and encouraging manufactures fall within the province of the national government. The rights and benefits of the former are probably as extensive as consists with the rights and interests of other nations. The distress which some of our manufacturing citizens have suffered from the astonishing changes that have recently taken place in Europe and America, are undoubtedly great, and excite our sympathy. Congress may probably, in adjusting their new tariff of duties, have done as much for their relief as a due regard to justice and the good of the community at large would allow.

While the renewal of the scenes of war must be deprecated by every benevolent and patriotic heart, it must be highly satisfactory to you, gentlemen, to observe that the interests of naval and military establishments are consulted and patronized; and that the formation of respectable military depots is taking place in various parts of the United States, and particularly in the vicinity of this ancient seat of government.

Having received sundry letters from the several governments of the States of Rhode-Island, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, and Louisiana, the Secretary will lay them before you, as likewise a copy of a law of the United States, passed the 20th day of April last, providing for the appointment of a colonel, lieutenant colonel, and one major in

each regiment of militia, instead of one lieutenant colonel to each regiment, and one major to each battalion. Considerations of some weight, as it regards the officers who are to be affected by the operation of this law, may perhaps lead you to make some provision for carrying it into effect the present session.

Should any thing of sufficient importance to require your immediate attention occur, I shall communicate the same by special message; and I shall be happy to co-operate with you, gentlemen, in all your efforts to promote the public good.

JOHN BROOKS.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

CIRCULAR.

The following addressed to the Members of the County Courts, was not written for the papers; but as it contains matter of public concernment, we have obtained permission to make it public:—*Enquirer.*

Council Chamber,
Richmond, May 12th, 1816.

GENTLEMEN,

The "Act to provide an accurate Chart of each county and a general map of the Territory of this Commonwealth," directs the Executive "to cause such surveys to be made of the exterior boundaries of the Commonwealth, as may be necessary to ensure greater accuracy in the details of the preceding Charts where they present the boundaries of adjacent States, and to cause such surveys to be made of the great divisions of the Territory of the Commonwealth where the same are occasioned by chains of mountains or rivers." For the purpose of carrying into effect this part of the Act, contracts will be immediately entered into by the executive. It would be a useless expense to have the same lines surveyed twice and in many instances three times. The respective county courts are therefore requested to exclude from the contracts they may enter into for county charts, the lines of their counties that are a part of the boundary of the State, the Blue Ridge, North Mountain and Allegany Mountains, the Chesapeake Bay, and the following rivers and parts of rivers, to wit: Roanoke to the fork of Dan and Staunton; Dan to the N. Carolina line above Danville and Staunton, to the junction of the North and South forks of Roanoke above Fort Lewis; Maherin to the Charlotte line; Nottway to the line of Prince Edward; Black Water to the line of Prince George; Elizabeth River to Kempsville; Nansemond to Suffolk; Appomattox to its source; James River from its mouth to the point of Fork; the Rivanna from its mouth to the first fork above Charlottesville; the Fluvanna from its mouth to Jackson's River; Jackson's River to the mouth of Dunlop's Creek; Chickahominy to its source; York River from its mouth to the junction of Mattapony to the Caroline line; Pomunky to North Wales; Northanna to the Orange line; Piankatank from its mouth, as far as it is the line of Essex; North River (Mathews) to its source; Rappahannock from its mouth to the fork above Fredericksburg; the North Fork to its source; the Rapidan to its source; Potomac to the South Branch; the South Branch to Moorefield; the North Branch to the Allegany; Shenandoah to Port Republic, Occoquan and Bull Run; Kanawha from the Ohio to the mouth of Gauley from its mouth to the Harrison line; New River to the North Carolina line; Little Kanawha from the Ohio to Salt Lick Creek; Monongalia to Buckhanan's River; West Fork to Clarksburg, and Cheat River to Chaver's Fork. As soon as the surveys of the boundaries, mountains and rivers aforesaid, are completed, under contracts with the Executive, the contractor for the County Charts will be furnished with such parts of the respective surveys as may be necessary to complete the said Charts.

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect, your humble servant,

W. C. NICHOLAS.

From the Richmond Daily Compiler.

AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL.

COTTON.

Cotton, which clothes nearly half the world, and contributes so much to our furniture, our beds, and our tables, is, luckily for man, as common in its growth as it is in its utility. It is "a native of the tropical regions in *every* quarter of the world. It is mentioned by Herodotus, as growing in India, at the time *he* wrote his history. It was found among the Mexicans and Peruvians, on the first discovery of America; and among the latter, the manufacture of it was carried to no inconsiderable extent."

In this desultory description, the reader will not look for learning; or else we might quote at length an account of it, of the same learned nature, with the following definition from the Edinburgh Encyclopædia:

"Cotton is a name, which, in common language, is very loosely given to any vegetable filamentous substance; but it is correctly appropriated to that peculiar vegetable matter, consisting of innumerable filaments, arranged together with an external coat, and enveloping the seeds of the genus Gossypium."

The reader is well enough acquainted with Cotton for the present purpose. He ought to be informed, however, that there are many varieties of the plant—some have enumerated ten species, whose distinctions are to be found in the form of the leaf, and the size of the tree.

But in South-Carolina and Georgia, the greatest Cotton States, *three* species are recognized:—1. "The *black* seed, or *long staple*, which came from Pernambuco about the year 1787 or '88. 2. The *green* seed cotton, or *upland* cotton, or short staple, cultivated in the middle and upper counties; and 3, nankeen, or *stained*, cotton, also grown in the same parts of the country, the color of which is deep and durable." The two former are grown and shipped in the greatest profusion. The first grows along the *sea-coast*, and is said to derive its fine quality more from the salt air than the soil; it is easily cleaned from the seed. The second "grows on the upland, at a distance from the coast, has a green seed, is of a short staple, and until the invention of a machine for the purpose, was so difficult to be cleaned, or separated from the seed, as to be scarcely worth the trouble and expense of cultivation. This machine was invented by Mr. Eli Whitney, a native of Massachusetts, who was accidentally in Georgia, in the year 1793, a gentleman of education, and distinguished for his mechanical genius. This machine

has enriched the southern planter by enabling him to cultivate to the greatest advantage, one of the most valuable staples in the world. Before its invention, very little *upland* cotton was cultivated, and scarcely a single pound was exported from the United States; afterwards the culture of this species of cotton became the principal object of the planter in South-Carolina and Georgia, and in the year 1807, more than 55,000,000 of pounds of upland cotton were exported, and which was valued at more than eleven and a half millions of dollars." This important machine has thus wrought an immense revolution in the occupations of many thousand people. Mr. Whitney has not been without his reward. South-Carolina has given him and his partner $50,000 for the privilege of using it in the state.

How rapid has been the increase of this valuable staple in the last few years! The progression is detailed by Mr. Pitkin, from whose statistics we borrow so profusely.

In 1791, the U. States exported 189,316 lbs.—in 1794, 1,601,760 lbs.—in 1798, 9,360,005 lbs.—in 1800, 17,789,803 lbs.—in 1802, 27,501,075 lbs.—in 1804, 38,118,011 lbs.

The following table exhibits the cottons of domestic growth exported from 1804 to 1814.

	Sea-Island. Pounds.	*Upland.* Pounds.	*Value.* Dollars.
1805	8,787,659	29,602,428	9,445,000
6	6,096,082	29,561,383	8,332,000
7	8,925,011	55,016,448	14,232,000
8	942,051	9,681,394	2,221,000
9	8,654,213	42,326,042	8,515,000
10	8,604,078	84,657,384	15,108,000
11	8,029,578	54,028,660	9,652,000
12	4,367,806	14,519,571	3,080,000
13	4,134,849	14,975,167	2,324,000
14	2,520,338	15,208,669	2,683,000

The exports for the years 1815 and '16, are considerable, and the prices of cotton very high. An immense stream of wealth has consequently poured into S. Carolina and Georgia—exchange, premiums on money, all the symptoms of prosperity have been in their favour.

Most of the American cotton has been exported to Great Britain. In 1807, for instance, "more than 53,000,000 lbs. were shipped directly to her, leaving about 13,000,000 for all the other parts of the world."

A calculation has been made, that Great Britain turns 5,000,000 spindles, spinning on an average 1,777,777 lbs. a week; making a consumption of about 7,000 bales per week, or 364,000 bales a year, the bales weighing about 250 or 300 lbs. each.

Our cotton exported to G. Britain constitutes a large proportion of the whole quantity of her imports In 1810, we sent her 240,516 bales, averaging 300 lbs. each—thus forming a total of 72,154,800 lbs. Her whole imports in that year were 561,173 bales, of which 142,946 were from Portugal and her colonies; each of these averaging only about 100 lbs. More than one half was thus procured from the United States.

Europe must look to more genial climes than her own for her cotton wool. Bonaparte attempted to encourage the growth by a premium of ten cents on the pound. But the experiment failed. Nature forbad, what man encouraged. Search the world through, there is no cotton superior, or perhaps equal to our sea-island for the finer fabrics. Great Britain must obtain her supply from us. She lately attempted to dispense with it, by getting a substitute from South-America; but the staple was not long and fine enough for her purpose. She is yet trying to rival us by the growths of the Isle of Bourbon—but, it seems almost ascertained, that the production is inferior to our *best* Sea-Islands.

The South may, therefore, congratulate itself upon the possession of an invaluable staple. A new market too is now offered for its produce.—Until lately, we made the cotton, and Europe manufactured it. But now, the North manufactures a great deal of what is made by the South. Some of it is woven into cloth, and some is shipped to Europe, in the form of yarn.

Wherever the spindle whirls, whether in Europe, or America, the southern states are at no loss for a market. They possess a mine of wealth, superior to the silver of Peru, or the diamonds of Golconda.

The following observations, made by a gentleman of this town, while on his passage up the Mississippi to New Orleans, have been communicated to us by a friend for publication.

Salem Reg.

"By what process have the banks of the Mississippi river been formed? This is a curious question, but it may be answered. The mouth of this river is about 110 miles from the city, and the banks from the city to the mouth, have certainly been formed by the deposition of the mud from time to time. How long it has been progressing from the city, cannot easily be conjectured. One mile in 50 years would require an era nearly as old as creation, and as the same phenomena appear above the city as far as Natchez, we are obliged to suppose that it progresses much faster. But as the mouth of the river advances into the sea, it must progress slower, as there will be a greater depth to fill up.

To ascertain by what process the detached mud banks at the mouth of the river are formed, I made the following experiments while lying about one mile below the bar at the mouth of the river. With the log line and glass, I first ascertained the velocity of the current on the surface, and found it to be at the rate of two knots per hour. Then putting more weight on the log, so as to sink it to different depths at pleasure, it was soon found that there was no current at the depth of two fathoms; for at this depth the line floated astern, while the log-board remained stationary. From the result of this experiment it was conjectured that the water beneath the surface was sea water. To decide this question a vessel was prepared in the following manner.—A glass bottle was secured to the sounding lead, and a line attached. Then a cork was fitted to the mouth of the bottle, and a small line attached to the cork, and held by an assistant on deck, while the sounding lead with the bottle was sunk. When at the depth of ten fathoms, the cork was pulled out, and after waiting for the jug to fill, it was drawn up, and the water contained in the bottle was found to be salt water, turbid with the sediment of the river. This experiment was repeated at different depths, and the result was, that at one fathom the water was nearly fresh, at two fa-

thoms it was considerably brackish, and continued to grow salter to the bottom. From these experiments it appears, that the river at the mouth flows over an immoveable body of salt water, probably at different depths, according to the velocity of the current.

Now, as the water of the Mississippi is turbid, from its contents of clay, so soon as it flows over the quiet body of salt water below, the sediment must fall within it, and being there undisturbed by the motion of the current, it must settle to the bottom. When it has risen to a sufficient height, the logs which continually float down the river, together with whole trees, lodge on these banks of mud, and thus catch every succeeding floating body which happens to come in contact. More mud is added, until a surface is formed above the water, and then a growth of cane poles spring up, and render the mass of logs and mud firm. When these detached masses are numerous, and lay in the vicinity of each other, they soon connect themselves in the same manner, and thus the banks of the river have been formed for the distance of 110 miles, and probably much farther above the city. This process is still going on, and detached masses are now formed for five or six miles below the connected banks of the river.—Some of these masses appear perfected by a growth of cane poles, others are covered with logs and drift wood, and many the most distant from the bar, are just emerging.

The water of this river is turbid, and has the appearance from deck of being very thick with yellow clay, but upon taking it up in a glass, it looks like a thin whitish fluid. To ascertain what proportion of the river water was clay, a barrel filled with it was allowed to remain till the sediment had precipitated itself. There was then found to be one cubic inch of clay, in a tenacious and impalpable powder. Now, as a gallon contains 282 cubic inches, and a barrel 32 gallons, there must be 282 X 32=9024 cubic inches in a barrel. Then, as there was one cubic inch of sediment in this bulk of water, the proportion which one bears to the other may be expressed by the fraction 1-9024, or in round numbers, about 1-10,000 part. But it contains a greater quantity of mud at some seasons of the year, and the author of the Mississippi navigator asserts that the proportion is as one to eight. This, however, appears incredible.

To ascertain the quantity of mud deposited at the mouth of the river, it is necessary that we should make some estimate of the quantity of water flowing to the sea. At a certain pass of the width of one mile, the velocity of the current was ascertained thus. A patent revolving log was procured, and by means of a line with a heavy weight attached, it was sunk at different depths at pleasure. Upon placing this log near the middle of the river, at the surface the velocity was found to be at the rate of two miles per hour; or in other words, three thousand five hundred and twenty yards. At the bottom of the river the velocity was found to be at the rate of one mile per hour; and at the middle depth, the mean of these two velocities, or one mile and a half per hour.—Then, at different distances from the shore, the velocity was ascertained in the same manner; and the aggregate result was found to be about one mile per hour. It was next found necessary to estimate the average depth of the river at this pass; and after sounding from shore to shore in a transverse direction, the result was an average depth of sixty feet. With these data, the quantity of water moving to the sea in 24 hours, may be thus calculated:

1760 X 1760=3,097,600 square yards, multiplied by 20 yards deep, gives 61,952,000 cubic yards of water moving to sea in an hour. Now, 27 feet is contained in a cubic yard, this multiplied by 61,952,000, gives 1,672,704,000 feet in the above column of water. This multiplied by 1728 inches in a foot, gives 2,890,432,512,000 cubic inches, which being divided by 9024 cubic inches in a barrel, gives 3,092,234,622 barrels. Now, as about 1-10,000 part of this quantity of water is sediment, the last product divided by 10,000, gives the number of barrels of sediment conveyed to the sea, and deposited at the mouth of the river per hour. Then by multiplying this product by 24 hours in a day, we have 3,092,234 X 24=74,213,516 barrels of mud per day. What an amazing quantity must be carried out during the course of a year, especially when we consider that the river flows with twice the velocity when it has risen to its height!

FROM THE ANALECTIC MAGAZINE.

DESCRIPTION

Of the island of Tristan D'Acunha, off which the action between the Hornet and Penguin was fought. By an officer of the Hornet.

The island of Tristan d'Acunha, in the South Atlantic ocean, lies in lat. 37. 6. S. and longitude 11, 42 west. It is inhabited by three men. Thomas Currie who has been on it the longest, that is to say about four years, claims the sovereignty, and is styled governor: the second is a Portuguese, has been there about a year; and the third, whose name is Johnson, is believed to be a German, and was left on the island about four months since, by the American privateer Young Wasp, of Philadelphia. They appear to be perfectly contented and happy in their situation, dreary and uncomfortable as it may seem. Their houses are entirely built of straw, and covered with sea elephant's skins, which renders them impervious to the rain.

The soil of this island is of excellent quality, capable of producing vegetables of every kind in profusion. Governor Currie now raises potatoes, cabbages and carrots in abundance, and some turnips, sallads and beets. Of the three last he carefully preserves the seed The governor has also a stock of hogs, of a small breed, which he caught wild, and reduced under his government. The authority of Governor Currie, though founded on the title of preoccupancy, extends only to his hogs, as neither the German nor the Portuguese acknowledge his superiority. The most perfect system of equality prevails among the three; but it is feared that ambition will, one day or other, occasion a struggle for power that may possibly produce another triumvirate equal to Cæsar, Pompey, and Crassus. There are an immense number of birds on the island, principally of two kinds, the largest of the size of a robin, the other not larger than the yellow bird, both of a dirty brown colour. When we first went on shore they were so very tame that we could knock them down with our hats; but they afterwards became more shy, owing to our killing a great

number of them for the use of the sick. We also killed several sea lions, with which the shore abounds, and whose tongues, hearts, and flippers are excellent eating. There are also, at certain seasons of the year, a number of seals and penguins, particularly on the south side of the island.

Tristan d'Acunha appears to be about fifteen miles in circumference. It is very high land, and, in clear weather, may be seen at the distance of twenty-five or thirty leagues. We made it at about 45 miles, owing to the weather being hazy. Part of the island, from the north, rises perpendicularly from the sea, apparently to the height of near one thousand feet: a level then commences, forming what is called table land, and extends towards the centre of the island, whence arises a conical mountain four thousand feet in height.—The top of this mountain is almost constantly enveloped in clouds; and it was only when the weather was very clear, and the sun very bright, that we could see the summit, which is covered with perpetual snows.

The coast of Tristan d'Acunha is very bold, and appears to be clear of danger where there are breakers about two cables' length from the shore. The ship, while at anchor, was overshawdowed by that part of the island under which she lay, which rises, like a moss-grown wall, from the bottom of the ocean. In other places the shore was covered with a kind of sea-weed called kelp, and by our sailors Cape Ann moorings. The landing place is perfectly safe for the smallest boats, except in heavy blowing weather. A stream of water, which takes its origin in the monntain, empties itself on the beach, by a cataract about 40 feet high, and may be seen at the distance of 8 or 10 miles at sea, tumbling down the mountain as white at the snow on its summit. The water is very fine and pure, and the casks can be filled by means of a hose of about one hundred feet long, without removing them from the boat. The anchorage is on the north side of the island; and vessels wishing to make it for the purpose of procuring wood and water, should run in until the watering place bears south-west by south, about one mile distant, where they will get seventeen fathoms water, in a gravelly bottom mixed with pieces of shells. But it would be advisable not to come to anchor, owing to the steepness of the anchorage ground, and the frequency of sudden squalls from off the island.

VOLCANO OF SAMBAWA.

From the Java Government Gazette, received by the ship Jacob Jones.

We are at length enabled to give the public a full and interesting account of the Volcanic eruption that has recently taken place on the *Island of Sambawa.**

The distance of Batavia from the Tomboro mountain is between seven and eight hundred miles, which appears so enormous a space for sound to be conveyed over, that we cannot help supposing the Valcano on Sambawa is in some degree connected with other Volcanic mountains in this island.

**Sambawa is in lat. 8, 54, S. lon. 110, 47, E.*

We may probably be wrong in our conjectures upon this subject, but it certainly appears to us, that any sound which could be conveyed over a space of six or seven nundred miles, must have been insupportable at the distance of 35 paals from the Crater.

Extract of a private letter.

On 5th April, 1815, a firing of cannon was heard at Macasser—the sound appeared to come from the southward, and continued at intervals all the afternoon.—Towards sunset the reports seemed to approach much nearer, and sounded like heavy guns, occasionally with slighter reports between.

During the night of the 11th, the firing was again heard, but much louder, and towards morning the reports were in quick succession—sometimes like three or four guns fired together, and so heavy that they shook the ship as they did the houses in the Fort.—Some of the reports seemed so near that I sent people to the mast-head to look out for the flashes, and immediately as the day dawned, I weighed and stood to the Southward, with a view of ascertaining the cause.

The morning was extremely dark and lowering, particular to the Southward and S. W.; the wind light and from the Eastward—Perceiving a large prow coming from the Southward, I sent a boat on board to get any intelligence she might have to give, as she was coming from the quarter from whence the firing had been heard. The prow was from the island of Salayer.—A Dutchman who commanded her stated that he heard the firing the whole night, but had seen no vessels or boats—he also stated that two days previous to his leaving Salayer, about the 4th or 5th, a heavy firing had been heard to the Southward of the Island; that the guns in the fort had been manned in consequence, conceiving it to be an attack by the pirates on some part of the Island, but as no vessels or boats had appeared, it was at length concluded to be an eruption from the Volcano on the Island of Sambawa.

In consequence of this information, and being of the same opinion, I anchored the ship abreast of Macasser, and went on shore to the resident with the intelligence.—I found that capt. Wood entertained the same opinion, as the house at Macasser had been shook by some of the reports.

Indeed, by this time, which was about 8, A. M. it was very apparent that some extraordinary occurrence had taken place.—The face of the Heavens to the southward and westward had assumed a most dismal and lowering aspect, and it was much darker than when the sun rose; at first it had the appearance of a very heavy squall or storm approaching; but as it came nearer it assumed a dusky, red appearance, and continued to spread very fast over the heavens. By 10 it was so dark I could scarcely discern the ship from the shore, though not a mile distant. I then returned on board.

It was now evident that an eruption had taken place from some Volcano, and that the air was filled with ashes or Volcanic dust, which already began to fall on the decks—by 11 the whole of the Heavens were obscured, except a small space near the horizon to the eastward; the wind being from that quarter, prevented for a short time the approach of the ashes; it appeared like a streak of light at day break, the mountains of Celebes

being clearly visible, while every other part of the horizon was enveloped in darkness.—The ashes now began to fall in showers, and the appearance altogether was truly awful and alarming. By noon, the light that had remained in the eastern part of the horizon disappeared, and complete darkness now covered the face of the day—our decks were soon covered with falling matter—the awnings were spread fore and aft, to prevent it as much as possible from getting below, but it was so light and subtile that it pervaded every part of the ship.

The darkness was so profound during the remainder of the day, that I never saw any thing equal to it in the darkest night—it was impossible to see your hand when held up close to your eyes—the ashes continued to fall without intermission through the night. At 6 the next morning, when the sun ought to have been seen, it still continued as dark as ever, but at half past seven, I had the satisfaction to perceive that the darkness evidently decreased and by 8, I could faintly discern objects on deck—from this time, it began to get lighter very fast, and by half past 9, the shore was distinguishable; the ashes falling in considerable quantities, though not so heavily as before. The appearance of the ship, when daylight returned, was most extraordinary, the masts, rigging, decks, and every part being covered with the falling matter; it had the appearance of calcined pumice stone nearly the color of wood ashes—it lay in heaps of a foot in depth in many parts of the deck, and I am convinced several tons weight were thrown overboard; for although a perfect impalpable powder or dust, when it fell, it was, when compressed of considerable weight, a pint measure filled with it, weighed 12 3-4 ounces—was perfectly tasteless, and did not affect the eyes with any painful sensation—had a faint burnt smell, but nothing like sulphur.

By noon, on the 12th, the sun again appeared, but very faintly through the dusky atmostphere. The air still being charged with the ashes, and which continued to fall lightly all that day and the succeeding one.

On going on shore at Moressa, I found the face of the country completely covered to the depth of an inch and a quarter—great fears were entertained for the crop of paddy that was on the ground; the young plants being completely beaten down and covered by it—the fish in the ponds at Marressa were killed and floating on the surface, and many small birds lying dead on the ground. It took several days to clear the ship of the ashes; when mixed with water it formed a tenacious mud, difficult to be washed off—my Chronometer stopped, owing I imagine, to some particles of dust having penetrated into it.

From the 12th to the 15th the atmosphere still continued very thick and dusky, from the ashes that remained suspended; the rays of the sun scarce able to penetrate through it, with little or no wind the whole time.

On the morning of the 15th, weighed from Macasser with a very light wind, and on the 18th made the island Sambawa—on approaching the coast passed through great quantities of pumice stone floating on the sea, which at first had the appearance of shoals, so much so, that I hove to, and sent a boat to examine one, which at the distance of less than a mile I took for a dry sand bank, upwards of three miles in length, with black rocks upon several parts of it, concluding it to have been thrown up during the eruption—it proved to be a complete mass of pumice floating on the sea, some inches in depth, with great numbers of large trunks of trees and logs among it, that appeared to be burnt, shivered as if blasted by lightning. The boat had much difficulty in pulling through it, and until we got into the entrance of Bima bay, the sea was litterally covered with shoals of pumice and floating timber.

On the 19th, arrived in Bima bay; in coming to anchor grounded on the bank off Bima town, shoaling suddenly from 3 fathoms; as the tide was rising, hove off again without any difficulty or damage. I imagine the anchorage at Bima must have altered considerably, as where we grounded, the Ternate Cruizer a few months since lay at anchor in six fathoms. The shores of the bay had a most dreary appearance, being entirely covered with ashes, even up to the summit of the mountains—the perpendicular depth of the ashes, as measured in the vicinity of Bima town, I found three inches and three quarters.

From the account given me by the Resident of Bima, it appears that the eruption proceeded from the Tomboro mountain, situated about 40 miles to the Westward of Bima. On the night of the 11th, the explosions he represents as most terrific, and compared them to a heavy mortar fired close to his ear.

The darkness commenced about seven in the morning and continued until the middle of the day, twelve hours longer than it did at Macasser. The fall of ashes was so heavy as to break the roof of the Residency house in many places, and rendered it uninhabitable, as well as many other houses in the town.

The wind was still during the whole time, but the sea uncommonly agitated; the waves rolled in upon the shore and filled the lower part of the houses a foot deep; every prow and boat was forced from the anchorage and driven on shore; several large prows are now laying a considerable distance above high water mark.

On the 22d the Dispatch country ship arrived in the bay from Amboyna—this vessel had mistaken a bay called Dampoor Sanjier bay, for Bima, and had gone into it; her boat was on shore at Sanjier, the Raja of which place informed the Officer that the greater part of the town and a number of people had been destroyed by the eruption; that the whole of his country was entirely desolate and the crops destroyed. The town of Sanjier is situate about 4 or 5 leagues to the S. E. of the Tomboro mountain; The Officer found great difficulty in landing in the bay, a considerable distance from the shore being completely filled up with pumice stones, ashes and logs of timber; the houses appered beaten down and covered with ashes.

In passing Tomboro mountain, at the distance of about 6 miles, the summit was not visible, being enveloped in clouds of smoke and ashes, the sides smoking in several places, apparently from the *lava*, which has flowed down, it not being cooled; several streams have reached the sea, a very considerable one to N. N. W. of the mountain, the course of which was plainly discernible both from the black colour of the lava contrasted with the ashes on each side of it, and the smoke which arose from every past of it. The Tomboro mountain in a direct line from Macasser is about 217 nautic miles distant.

Communicated for the Alexandria Gazette.

A STONE IS LAID.

Mr. Curtis, of Arlington, and a party of gentlemen, returning from Smith's Island, have visited Pope's Creek, in the county of Westmoreland, ever memorable, as the birth place of our Washington, and have placed a stone upon the remains of the old mansion-house, in which the hero first saw the light. The stone is a plain free-stone slab, and bears this simple inscription:

HERE,
On the 11th of February, 1732,
WASHINGTON
WAS BORN.

The report of cannon from the vessel awakened the echoes of the place, and told, that Americans were paying affectionate tribute to the memory of their Chief.

Westmoreland, 4th June, 1816.

NEW-ORLEANS.

Accounts from New-Orleans to the 21st ult. state that all hopes of stopping the breach in the crevasse were at an end, until the periodical fall of the water in the river. All further attempts to oppose this torrent of water was abandoned on the 16th. The width and depth of the stream rushing through the embankment of the river is variously represented: the greatest estimation we have seen is stated at 200 feet by 20. It is probable this is somewhat above reality. The water was still rising a little in the back part of the city, and in what is called the Fauxbourge, St. Mary's, and the low grounds. No apprehensions are entertained as to the safety of the merchandise deposited in the city. Some serious fears are entertained for the health of the inhabitants when the water subsides. A prevalence of a fever is expected to insue.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN NEWS.

London dates to the 2d of May, and Paris to the 27th of April, have been received at New-York. By the extracts of letters from Paris under date of the 24th and 25th April, to the editors of the London Courier and Morning Chronicle, matter for political speculation and conjecture is afforded. It is stated that the aid de camp to the Emperor Alexander has arrived at Paris with despatches, the object of one of which, is stated to be, to withdraw from the Duke of Wellington the command of the Russian army in France, which he holds as generalissimo of the allied forces. Differences are said to exist between the Russian and British cabinets, and are supposed to relate to the settlement of a new order of things in France. The most prevalent opinion there, is that the differences arise principally from pretensions set up by Russia in favour of the young Prince of Orange, in the event of the Bourbons being removed from the throne, the expediency of which is understood to be sensibly felt by the allies. An article had lately appeared in the Belgian Moniteur, eulogizing the young prince, and remarked that he already justified a confidence in his abilities for the high destinies to which he may be called. This is supposed to allude to the throne of France. The government of the lower countries, in conjunction with Russia, are represented as taking measures to that effect. They had made overtures to a high character in France, who, suspecting the feelings of M. de Richelieu on that subject, ventured to confide to him the communication he had received on that subject, who replied, he was not surprised at such overtures, and added, you may be further consulted on that subject; by which it would seem that M. de Richelieu is not a stranger to the Russian plan in favour of the young prince. It is thought that he presides over France, under the immediate influence of Russian councils. It is reported that a treaty of alliance between the Emperor of Russia, his Majesty of Prussia, and the King of the Netherlands, had been signed, and that the object of the Duke of Wellington's visit to the Hague, (from whence he returned to Paris on the 22d of April) was to obtain an explanation from the King of the Netherlands of the specific object of the high contracting parties in the alliance. A conjecture is afloat, that this alliance will occasion a similar one between England, France, and Austria.

In the sitting of the CHAMBER OF PEERS of April 27, the report of the special committee of seven, appointed to examine the law project on the finances, was made by Count Garnier. It was divided into three heads:

1. The establishment of the budget of 1816; that is to say, the exposition of the ordinaries and extraordinaries of the army, and the ways and means to which the government may resort to provide for its expenses.

2. The discharge of the debt in arrear, and due on the 1st January, 1817, and the means adopted to provide therefor.

3. The payment of a loan of 100 millions raised in virtue of a Royal Ordinance, dated August 16th, 1815.

In considering these topics in succession, the committee discussed several important questions, particularly what is the competence of legislative chambers with respect to the public revenue, in a monarchy? The report concluded with recommending the adoption of the law, which the committee thought could not be longer deferred without occasioning irreparable prejudice to our finances.

Some debate arose on the question for printing the report; which was finally assented to. The Chamber then proceeded to ballot on the law project; which received the sanction of 131 to 1, and the President accordingly proclaimed its adoption. It was expected the Chambers would be prorogued about the 6th or 7th of May; that the King would not go in person, but nominate a commissioner for that purpose, to be presided by the Chancellor.

The marriage of the Prince Cobourg to the Princess Charlottee is stated to have produced more intimate relations between the courts of London and Dresden. The King of Saxony signs the marriage contract in quality of head of all the princes of the family of Saxony. Appropriations have been made for the amelioration of the condition of the French clergy. Great reduction of naval establishments are taking place in England. No new commissions will issue, and their establishments in the Mediterranean, East and West Indies, it is said, will be reduced.

Sir R. Wilson, Mr. Bruce, and Capt. Hutchinson have been found guilty, and sentenced to three months imprisonment—the slightest punishment the law allows.